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LETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Arab Lawyers' Union dated 13 October 1993 concerning developments in the Lockerbie case. I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Ahmed ELHOUDERI
Permanent Representative

Annex

Arab Lawyers' Union
Secretariat
No.: 688
Date: 13 October 1993

STATEMENT BY THE ARAB LAWYERS' UNION CONCERNING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LOCKERBIE CASE

The secretariat of the Arab Lawyers' Union is following with the utmost concern the developments and adverse implications of the Lockerbie crisis, which constitutes a violation of the fundamental rights of the Libyan people, including the right to sovereignty, to say nothing of the damage which will be inflicted on the countries bordering on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and the propagation of tension and the threat to peace and stability in the region, in particular in the light of the threats hinted at by the three Western countries that are parties to the crisis in order to tighten the sanctions and the economic and political blockade against the fraternal Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The secretariat is also following the praiseworthy Arab and international efforts aimed at containing the crisis and finding a legal exit therefrom by solving the problem on an equitable basis which protects the rights of Libyan citizens, respects Libyan sovereignty, contributes to international legality and reaffirms the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations in the settlement of disputes.

The secretariat of the Arab Lawyers' Union considers that the case has acquired political dimensions, which bespeak the attitudes of the Western parties to the crisis, who are hostile to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and which have transformed the case from a legal matter into a political dispute, with the threat of the use of force and pressure, contrary to the current international climate which favours the settlement of international crises through negotiation and through indirect channels.

The Arab Lawyers' Union, while rejecting the policies of violence and the threat of sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and its people, urges the international parties and local organizations, including the United Nations, to bring about a situation whereby the matter will be kept within its legal framework, and to provide all the guarantees necessary to place it in that context and to remove all obstacles so that the two suspects may be given a fair trial after due legal process and thorough investigations. The Arab Lawyers' Union associates itself with the press release from the legal advisers of the two suspects issued 10 October 1993, and expresses its solidarity with those advisers.

In that connection, the Arab Lawyers' Union urges official circles in the three Western countries to facilitate the task of the legal advisers, who are European and United States nationals, so that they may prepare a defence brief in a proper manner, in view of the failure of the prosecuting authorities in the case to disclose the evidence on the basis of which they have brought charges against the two suspects. Furthermore, the media campaign which is hostile to

the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to Libyan citizens must be halted, because it will influence the judges and the jury in the event that the two accused should agree to appear before an equitable and fair court in a neutral country.

The Arab Lawyers' Union urges the United Nations and the Security Council to adopt an objective and constructive stance and to abide by the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, which is aimed at strengthening peace and resolving disputes without resorting to confrontation. The Arab Lawyers' Union wishes the United Nations to play a positive role by proposing a plan for the peaceful solution of the crisis based on the reinforcement of the law and legal actions and by exercising its good offices to find a proper way out of the crisis.

The Arab Lawyers' Union also urges all Arab and international legal and humanitarian organizations to endeavour to express their solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and to underscore the need to ensure an equitable and fair trial for the two Libyan citizens, as well as to contribute, along with the generous efforts of other parties, to a settlement of the dispute so that a climate favourable to the strengthening of international legality and understanding between peoples of the world may prevail in the international community.